



BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.



Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

1915.

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HUGH EVANS & SONS, 68 HERTFORD ROAD & 356 STANLEY ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

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THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

9th February, 1916.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Local Education Authority.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith the Eighth Annual Report on the Inspection of Schools and School Children.

Following the suggestion of the Board of Education and by reason of the unusual demands upon my time consequent upon the War, this report is not so full as previous ones have been, and consists mainly of a statistical summary of the work done, together with short accounts of the new activities of the school medical service, namely, the establishment of a dental clinic and the provision of facilities for the operative treatment of adenoids and enlarged tonsils.

In May, Dr. Taylor was granted leave of absence for the duration of the War, and is now serving in France as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

In August, Miss Cowe, M.B., was appointed to carry out routine inspections on five half-days each week, and I continued the supervision of the Minor Ailments Clinic, the Inspection Clinic, re-inspections and all other urgent school work.

Considering the exceptional circumstances, I think, after perusing the report, you will agree that it is remarkable that so much has been done.

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this result.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. Allen Daley.

School Medical Officer.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.

Number of Children:—In July, 1915, the estimated number of children between the ages of five and fourteen years was 14,846.

There are seven Council, three Church of England, and three Roman Catholic Schools. Their accommodation, mean number on the rolls, and average attendance during 1915, are given in the following table:—

	Accommodation	Mean No. on Rolls.	Average Attendance
Council Schools	7,728	7,155	6,324
Church of England Schools	2,407	2,496	2,144
Roman Catholic Schools	2,776	3,135	2,693
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	12,911	12,786	11,161
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On January 31st, 1915, there were again in the Denominational Schools 85 boys and 73 girls who were then under the age of five years. Children under this age are not admitted to the Council Schools.

Cost.—I am indebted to the Borough Treasurer for the following:—

“The Rateable Value of the Borough in 1914–1915 was £474,864.

The gross cost of Medical Inspection for the twelve months ended March 31st, 1915, was £848 11s. 3d.; the Government Grant was £307 1s. 10d., hence the net cost was £541 9s. 5d.

The cost under this head per child on the school rolls was 1s. 6·3d. gross and 11·7d. net, and the cost as a decimal part of a penny rate was ·445d. gross and ·284d. net.

It is anticipated that a grant of £424 5s. 7d. will be received in respect of the above mentioned expenditure of £848 11s. 3d.”

Groups of Children Examined at Routine Inspections:—All the leavers were examined by Dr. Taylor; the entrants have been examined by Miss Cowe and include those in all the schools except two of the smaller

ones. The entrants in these schools will be examined in January 1916, and it is hoped that during that year all leavers and entrants will be inspected.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED, 1ST JANUARY, 1915, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

A—"CODE"

B—Groups other than
"CODE"

Age	Entrants						Leavers				Grand Total		Special cases	Re-exam- inations
	3	4	5	6	Other ages	Total	12	13	14	Total				
Boys	—	—	490	221	65	776	597	178	12	787	1563	Boys	512	—
Girls	—	—	487	238	67	792	476	117	7	600	1392	Girls	688	—
Total	—	—	977	459	132	1568	1073	295	19	1387	2955	Totals	1200	2754

In 1915, leavers formed 12·4% of the average attendance; the total number inspected is 26·5% of the average attendance compared with 30·1% in 1914.

Special Examinations:—The number of children who were presented for special examination was 1,200, compared with 1,073 in 1914 and 762 in 1913. Ninety-one were presented by the teachers at school during the course of the routine inspections or re-inspections and 1,109 were seen at the Town Hall.

The following table shows the number of children who were referred for examination at the Town Hall by :—

School Attendance Officers	..	..	..	..	348 or 31%
Teachers	..	..	..	..	317 or 29%
School Nurses	..	..	..	..	224 or 20%
Parents and others	..	..	..	..	220 or 20%

The *Inspection Clinic* at the Town Hall is now held from 3.30 p.m. until 5 p.m., each Thursday and from 10.30 a.m. until noon each Saturday: it increases in usefulness and popularity every year. The number of new cases seen there in 1915 was 1,109, compared with 900 in 1914 and 546 in 1913.

Re-Examinations :—2,754 re-examinations were made compared with 2,871 in 1914 ; 2,150 were performed at the schools and 604 at the Town Hall.

Other Examinations :—12 children who had been committed to Industrial Schools were examined, also 11 bursars, 4 student teachers and 40 scholarship candidates.

Work of past years :—The following table shows the total number of examinations performed since the inauguration of the work.

Year		Routine Inspections		Special Examinations		Re-Examinations		Totals
1908	..	1,565	..	—	..	—	..	1,565
1909	..	2,550	..	408	..	—	..	2,958
1910	..	2,049	..	—	..	—	..	2,049
1911	..	2,920	..	515	..	1,119	..	4,554
1912	..	3,966	..	648	..	3,170	..	7,784
1913	..	3,488	..	762	..	3,490	..	7,740
1914	..	3,349	..	1,073	..	2,871	..	7,293
1915	..	2,955	..	1,200	..	2,754	..	6,909
		—		—		—		—
Totals		22,842	..	4,606	..	13,404	..	40,852

Attendance of Parents :—The following table gives the number of parents present at the routine examinations :—

		Senior Boys		Senior Girls		Infants		Totals
Children examined	..	787	..	600	..	1,568	..	2,955
Parents present	..	257	..	245	..	1,076	..	1,578
Pereentages ..	..	32·6	..	40·8	..	68·6	..	53·4
Pereentages present in 1914		44·9	..	58·5	..	71·4	..	59·6

The perecentage of parents present has declined this year, being 53·4 compared with 59·6 in 1914, 53·1 in 1913, 51·8 in 1912, and 49·4 in 1911.

Objections to Examination :—In 8 instances the parents sent written objections to the examination of their children.

Medical History of the Children Inspected.—Of the 1,568 entrants, the following were reported to have suffered from the diseases indicated *before* the commencement of school life :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	1,101 or 76·6 per cent.
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	699 or 44·6 per cent.
Chickenpox	..	..	..	..	404 or 25·8 per cent.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	62 or 3·9 per cent.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	16 or 1·0 per cent.

Of the 1,387 leavers the following were reported to have suffered from the diseases indicated *since* commencing school :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	272 or 19·6 per cent.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	171 or 12·3 per cent.
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	152 or 10·9 per cent.
Chickenpox	..	..	..	..	132 or 9·5 per cent.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	31 or 2·2 per cent.

Vaccination had not been performed in 172 entrants, or 11 per cent. and in 44 leavers, or 3·2 per cent. The increasing tendency during recent years to neglect this means of securing protection from smallpox is shown by these figures.

Summary of Defects.—A general summary may now be given of the numbers examined, and the defects found in :—

1. Entrants.—That is, those, usually below the age of seven years, who are examined soon after their first entrance to school.

2. Leavers.—That is, those aged twelve years or more.

3. Special Cases.—That is, those (not usually included in the above groups) who were presented for examination because of a more or less obvious defect.

TABLE II.—RETURN SHOWING
ROUTINE CASES.

Condition.	Entrants				Leavers.			
	Boys	Girls	Total	%	Boys	Girls	Total	%
Total Inspected	776	792	1568		787	600	1387	
Clothing { Satisfactory ...	745	770	1515	96·62	727	590	1317	94·95
{ Unsatisfactory	31	22	53	3·38	60	10	70	5·05
Footgear { Satisfactory ...	726	744	1470	93·75	682	578	1260	90·84
{ Unsatisfactory	50	48	98	6·25	105	22	127	9·16
Cleanliness of Head { Clean i.e., no nits or pediculi	763	558	1321	82·24	739	331	1070	77·14
{ Nits only ...	11	222	233	14·86	45	264	309	22·28
{ Pediculi	2	12	14	0·89	3	5	8	0·58
Cleanliness of Body { Clean	737	751	1488	94·90	678	568	1246	89·83
{ Dirty	39	41	80	5·10	109	32	141	10·17
{ Pediculi pres.	34	36	70	4·46	79	24	103	7·43
Nutrition { Excellent	86	99	185	11·80	9	16	25	1·80
{ Normal	600	582	1182	75·38	750	559	1309	94·38
{ Below normal	90	111	201	12·82	28	25	53	3·82
{ Bad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat { No defect	517	578	1095	69·83	480	356	836	60·27
{ Mouth breathers	130	91	221	14·09	116	66	182	13·12
{ Tonsils: slen'ged	98	101	199	12·69	147	130	277	19·96
{ Tonsils: much „	35	54	89	5·68	66	69	135	9·72
{ Adenoids: slight..	76	49	125	7·97	39	20	59	4·25
{ Adenoids: marked	26	27	53	3·38	20	10	30	2·16
{ Other defect	7	8	15	0·96	6	5	11	0·79
External Eye Disease { No disease	742	757	1499	95·60	774	577	1351	97·40
{ Blepharitis	30	23	53	3·38	5	9	14	1·01
{ Conjunctivitis ...	4	7	11	0·70	4	4	8	0·58
{ Corneal opacities	1	1	2	0·13	2	1	3	0·22
{ Other disease ...	—	4	4	0·26	2	9	11	0·79
Ear Disease { No disease	759	776	1535	97·90	770	590	1360	98·05
{ Obstruction right	2	3	5	0·32	—	—	—	—
{ „ left	1	4	5	0·32	—	—	—	—
{ Otorrhœa right	11	8	19	1·21	15	4	19	1·37
{ „ left	13	11	24	1·53	5	3	8	0·58
{ Other disease ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	0·29
Teeth { Sound	137	122	259	16·52	112	73	185	13·33
{ Less than 4 decay'd	301	315	616	39·29	434	355	789	56·39
{ 4 or more decayed	338	355	693	44·20	241	172	413	29·78
{ Sepsis	—	—	—	—	6	14	20	1·44
Heart and Circulation { No disease	699	721	1420	90·56	771	567	1338	96·47
{ Organic „	1	4	5	0·32	8	14	22	1·59
{ Functional „	5	3	8	0·51	2	6	8	0·58
{ Anæmia	74	65	139	8·86	8	19	27	1·95
{ Other defect	2	2	4	0·26	—	3	3	0·22
Lungs { No disease	580	574	1154	73·60	723	555	1278	92·07
{ Chronic Bronc. & Bronc. Catarrh	177	203	380	24·23	35	17	52	3·75
{ Tuberculosis	4	4	8	0·51	—	—	—	—
{ „ suspected	7	8	15	0·96	1	7	8	0·58
{ Other disease	13	4	17	1·08	29	31	60	4·33

CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN INSPECTED.

SPECIAL CASES.

Totals							
Boys	Girls	Total	%	Boys	Girls	Total	Condition.
1563	1392	2955		512	688	1200	Total Inspected.....
1472	1360	2832	95·84	—	—	—	Satisfactory } Clothing
91	32	123	4·16	—	1	1	Unsatisfactory ... }
1408	1322	2730	92·39	—	—	—	Satisfactory } Footgear
155	70	225	7·61	—	—	—	Unsatisfactory ... }
1502	889	2391	80·92	—	—	—	Clean i.e., no nits or pediculi } Cleanliness of Head
56	486	542	18·34	2	22	24	Nits only }
5	17	22	0·74	0	4	4	Pediculi }
1415	1319	2734	92·52	—	—	—	Clean } Cleanliness of Body
148	73	221	7·48	—	—	—	Dirty }
113	60	173	5·85	5	3	8	Pediculi present }
95	115	210	7·11	1	—	1	Excellent } Nutrition
1350	1141	2491	84·30	—	—	—	Normal }
118	136	254	8·59	1	3	4	Below normal ... }
—	—	—	—	1	—	1	Bad }
997	934	1931	65·31	—	—	—	No defect
246	157	403	13·60	36	30	66	Mouth breathers ...
245	231	476	16·11	11	16	27	Tonsils: slightly enlarged
101	123	224	7·58	10	18	28	Tonsils: much „ ...
115	69	184	6·23	8	13	21	Adenoids: slight
46	37	83	2·84	32	25	57	Adenoids: marked
13	13	26	0·88	25	21	46	Other defect
1516	1334	2850	96·45	—	—	—	No disease } External Eye Disease
35	32	67	2·27	18	20	38	Blepharitis
8	11	19	0·64	54	71	125	Conjunctivitis ... }
3	2	5	0·17	3	6	9	Corneal Opacities
2	13	15	0·51	5	14	19	Other Disease ... }
1529	1366	2895	97·97	—	—	—	No disease } Ear Disease
2	3	5	0·17	2	2	4	Obstruction right
1	4	5	0·17	2	3	5	„ left
26	12	38	1·29	20	19	39	Otorrhœa right
18	14	32	1·08	19	22	41	„ left
1	3	4	0·14	2	1	3	Other disease
249	195	444	15·03	—	—	—	Sound } Teeth
735	670	1405	47·55	—	1	1	Less than 4 decayed
579	527	1106	37·43	5	7	12	4 or more decayed ... }
6	14	20	0·68	3	3	6	Sepsis
1470	1288	2758	93·33	—	—	—	No disease } Heart and Circulation
9	18	27	0·91	5	10	15	Organic disease
7	9	16	0·54	2	2	4	Functional „
82	84	166	5·62	6	11	17	Anæmia
2	5	7	0·24	—	—	—	Other Defect ... }
1363	1129	2432	82·30	—	—	—	No disease } Lungs
212	220	432	14·62	19	22	41	Chronic Bronc. & Bronc. Catarrh
4	4	8	0·27	—	3	3	Tuberculosis
8	15	23	0·78	11	10	21	„ suspected
42	35	77	2·61	3	5	8	Other disease

Condition		Entrants				Leavers			
		Boys	Girls	Total	%	Boys	Girls	Total	%
Total Inspected		776	792	1568		787	600	1387	
Nervous System	No disease.....	750	771	1521	97.00	778	595	1373	98.99
	Epilepsy (Major or Minor)	1	—	1	0.06	1	1	2	0.14
	Chorea	—	1	1	0.06	2	—	2	0.14
	Other disease	25	20	45	2.87	6	4	10	0.72
Skin	No disease.....	704	742	1446	92.22	78	587	1355	97.69
	Ringworm: Body...	1	2	3	0.19	—	1	1	0.07
	Head...	3	—	3	0.19	1	—	1	0.07
	Impetigo	62	42	104	6.63	9	7	16	1.15
	Scabies	1	—	1	0.06	—	—	—	—
	Other disease	7	8	15	0.96	9	5	14	1.01
Rickets	No disease.....	759	774	1533	97.77	775	596	1371	98.85
	Slight.....	9	8	17	1.08	12	4	16	1.15
	Marked	8	10	18	1.15	—	—	—	—
Deformities	No deformity	756	783	1539	98.15	782	594	1376	99.21
	Deformity present	20	9	29	1.85	5	6	11	0.79
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	No disease...	775	791	1566	99.87	785	598	1383	99.71
	Glandular...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.07
	Bones and Joints.....	1	1	2	0.13	1	2	3	0.22
	Other forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Speech	Not defective.....	744	780	1524	97.19	747	589	1336	96.32
	Defective	18	8	26	1.66	4	2	6	0.43
	Articulation	6	1	7	0.45	11	3	14	1.01
	Stammering	8	3	11	0.70	25	6	31	2.24
	Other defect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Condition	Normal	751	778	1529	97.51	718	539	1257	90.63
	Dull or B'kward	21	14	35	2.23	69	61	130	9.37
	Mentally Defect. (all grades)	4	—	4	0.26	—	—	—	—
Vision.	6/6 each eye (Normal Vision)*	13	10	23	*52.28	421	333	754	54.36
	Less than 6/6 but not less than 6/9 in one or both eyes	1	6	7	15.90	216	174	390	28.12
	Less than 6/9 in one or both eyes (i.e.), 6/12 or less and requiring treatment	8	6	14	31.82	150	93	243	17.52
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Squint		35	53	88	5.61	56	33	89	6.42
Hearing (Whisper)									
20 feet each ear (normal hearing)		767	776	1543	98.41	725	555	1280	92.29
20 feet R.....		770	780	1550	98.85	735	557	1292	93.15
L.....		769	778	1547	98.66	736	560	1296	93.44
10 feet R.....		3	8	11	0.70	43	38	81	5.84
L.....		5	7	12	0.77	46	35	81	5.84
5 feet R.....		3	4	7	0.45	9	5	14	1.01
L.....		2	7	9	0.57	5	5	10	0.72
Other Disease or Defect	Not present	766	780	1546	98.60	773	590	1363	98.27
	Present ...	10	12	22	1.40	14	10	24	1.73

* These figures relate to those whose vision was examined.

Totals				SPECIAL CASES.			Condition
Boys	Girls	Total	%	Boys	Girls	Total	
1563	1392	2955		512	688	1200	Total Inspected
1528	1366	2894	97.94	—	—	—	No disease
2	1	3	0.10	1	6	7	Epilepsy (Major or } Nervous
2	1	3	0.10	3	9	12	Minor)..... } System
31	24	55	1.86	1	3	4	Chorea
							Other disease
1472	1329	2801	94.79	—	—	—	No disease
1	3	4	0.14	23	14	37	Ringworm : Body..... } Skin
4	—	4	0.14	21	14	35	„ Head..... }
71	49	120	4.06	85	97	182	Impetigo..... }
1	—	1	0.03	9	10	19	Scabies
16	13	29	0.98	64	69	133	Other disease..... }
1534	1370	2904	98.27	—	—	—	No disease
21	12	33	1.12	—	2	2	Slight
8	10	18	0.61	1	1	2	Marked..... } Rickets
1538	1377	2915	98.65	—	—	—	No deformity } Deformities
25	15	40	1.35	5	5	10	Deformity present }
1560	1389	2949	99.80	—	—	—	No disease.....
1	—	1	0.03	8	3	11	Glandular..... } Tuberculosis
2	3	5	0.17	3	1	4	Bones and Joints } Non-
—	—	—	—	—	1	1	Other forms ... } Pulmonary
1491	1369	2860	96.79	—	—	—	Not defective.....
22	10	32	1.08	—	1	1	Defective articulation } Speech
17	4	21	0.71	4	1	5	Stammering
33	9	42	1.42	1	2	3	Other defect
1469	1317	2786	94.28	—	—	—	Normal
90	75	165	5.58	2	2	4	Dull or Backward... } Mental
4	—	4	0.14	11	11	22	Mentally Defective } Condition
							(all grades)
434	343	777	*54.30	—	—	—	6/6 each eye
217	180	397	27.74	—	—	—	(Normal Vision)*
158	99	257	17.96	—	—	—	{ Less than 6/6 but not
91	86	177	5.99	10	18	28	{ less than 6/9 in one or } Vision
							{ both eyes
							{ Less than 6/9 in one or
							{ both eyes (i.e.), 6/12 or
							{ less and requiring treat- } Squint
							{ ment
1492	1331	2823	95.53	—	—	—	Hearing (Whisper)
1505	1337	2842	96.18	—	—	—	20 feet each ear (normal hearing)
1505	1338	2843	96.21	—	—	—	20 feet R.....
46	46	92	3.11	17	21	38	L.....
51	42	93	3.15	17	19	36	10 feet R.....
12	9	21	0.71	8	12	20	L.....
7	12	19	0.64	9	12	21	5 feet R.....
1539	1370	2909	98.44	—	—	—	L.....
24	22	46	1.56	27	32	59	Not present } Other Disease
							Present..... } or defect

The number with any physical defect reaches the large percentage of 81·2%. The more important percentages of physical defects are 8·6% ill-nourished; 13·6% mouth-breathers; 23·7% enlarged tonsils; 9% adenoids; 37·4% four or more carious teeth; 0·91% organic heart disease; 5·62% anæmia; 1·05% tuberculosis or suspected tuberculosis; 17·96% defective vision; and 5·99% squint. Nearly all these figures are larger than the corresponding ones for 1914.

It is to be noted that many children suffer from more than one defect. The percentage where there was no adverse mark on the inspection schedule either for physical defect or for uncleanness or insufficiency of clothing or footwear was only 12·5. The percentage placed upon the following-up register indicates the number of children for whom treatment in some form should be obtained, or who should be kept under observation. The names of 61·3% of the infants, 62·1% of the senior boys and 61·3% of the senior girls were placed upon the register; the total percentage being 61·5.

Amongst those referred for special examination were 88 children in whom no physical defect, or a trivial one only, could be found. This number is largely accounted for by the increased number of children who were sent by the School Attendance Officers.

Exclusion of Sick Children :—The following table gives particulars of the 1,965 children excluded during the year in accordance with the provision of Article 53 (b) of the Code: together with 175 children who were absent at the beginning of the year having been excluded before the end of 1914. At the end of 1915, 123 excluded children were absent.

Disease		No. excluded	Disease		No. excluded
Scarlet Fever	Patients	.. 166	<i>Brought forward</i>	..	.. 1518
Do.	Contacts	.. 264	General Debility (including		
Diphtheria	Patients	.. 43	suspected Tuberculosis)	..	39
Do.	Contacts	.. 59	Conjunctivitis	..	.. 109
Enteric Fever	Patients	.. 5	Bronchitis	..	.. 32
Do.	Contacts	.. 12	Scabies	..	.. 33
Measles	Patients	.. 163	Eczema	..	.. 52
Do.	Contacts	.. 50	Impetigo	..	.. 147
Whooping Cough	Patients	.. 284	Mentally Defective	..	.. 5
Do.	Contacts	.. 74	Infantile Paralysis	..	.. 4
Chickenpox	Patients	.. 97	Chorea	..	.. 19
Do.	Contacts	.. 27	Otorrhoea	..	.. 22
Mumps	Patients	.. 44	Blepharitis	..	.. 17
Ringworm 95	Tonsillitis 19
Phthisis 83	Other diseases 124
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		52			
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<i>Carried forward</i> 1518	Total 2,140
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Height and Weight :—The average heights and weights of the groups of children examined have not been worked out for 1915, owing to the length of time such calculations take. There is no reason to suppose that the results would differ materially from those of previous years.

Mal-Nutrition :—The nutrition of 7·11% of the children was recorded as excellent, 84·3% were regarded as normal, and 8·59% as ill-nourished.

Cleanliness and Condition of the Skin :—An analysis of the records of the routine inspections shows that under the heading “cleanliness or otherwise of the body,” 92·5% of the children were recorded as “clean”; and 7·48% were “dirty”; pediculi were present on 173 or 5·85%. On examining the heads, nits were seen on 11 infant boys, or 1·4% of those examined, and on 222 infant girls, or 28% ; of the leavers 5·7% of the boys had nits in their hair and 44% of the girls.

During the year, systematic examinations were made by the School Nurses of the heads of the girls in the Public Elementary Schools. About 35 children could be inspected in an hour. The names of all those with dirty heads and of the absentees were recorded. A notice was sent to

the mother of each dirty child. A week later, those previously found to be dirty were re-inspected, and a second notice sent if the child was still dirty. Any child previously absent who had now returned was also examined. Third and fourth visits were made after further weekly intervals; those still on the list of dirty were examined again, and if necessary, strongly-worded notices were sent. If after a month no appreciable improvement had been effected, visits were paid to the child's home and continued until the condition became satisfactory. As this is the first occasion upon which a "wholesale" campaign against dirty heads has been undertaken, the standard taken was not high.

The following table shows the number found to have very dirty heads at the first and fourth examinations.

EXAMINATION OF GIRLS' HEADS.

School.	Department	Number Inspected.	1st Exam. Number with numerous nits.	4th Exam. Number with numerous nits.
St. Mary's.	Girls	313	35	8
	Infants	112	12	1
Bedford Road.	Senior	271	35	9
	Junior	130	27	2
	Infants	101	14	3
Christ Church.	Senior	276	56	5
	Infants	83	16	—
Gray Street.	Senior	369	51	36
	Infants	135	25	13
Hawthorne Road.	Senior	271	44	20
	Infants	108	15	10
Linaere.	Senior	278	27	16
	Infants	113	8	3
St. James'.	Senior	312	56	35
	Junior	205	51	25
	Infants	249	63	28
St. James' Select.	Senior	253	54	37
St. Winefride's.	Senior	335	135	29
	Infants	94	16	2
Salisbury Road.	Senior	223	77	27
	Junior	247	54	22
	Infants	111	28	7
St. John's.	Senior	238	97	17
	Infants	76	23	3
Balliol.	Senior	197	22	—
	Infants	95	9	—
Orrell.	Senior	248	47	28
	Infants	88	6	3
TOTALS.		5,531	1,103	389
PERCENTAGES OF THOSE INSPECTED.			20	7

As a result of this campaign, 714 girls out of 1,103, or 64·7%, had their heads cleansed more or less satisfactorily without recourse to any other method than speaking to the children and serving notices. To effect substantial improvement in the remaining 389 proved an extremely difficult task.

Having regard to the occurrence of Typhus Fever in the neighbouring City of Liverpool and the proof, now forthcoming, that the disease is conveyed from person to person by lice, the importance of endeavouring to free the children from this disease-carrier is manifest.

Children Act, Section 122 :—Under this Section, 26 children only were dealt with. Half this number were reported from the Salisbury Road Council School, 7 from St. John's School, 4 from St. Mary's and 2 from the Linares Council School. It will be noted that from some schools with a large number of dirty children no notices were received under this Act. The statutory notice requiring the child to be cleansed within twenty-four hours was served in 25 instances. All these children were satisfactorily cleansed by their parents as a result of a single notice. One child (on whose parents the statutory notice was served in 1914) was cleansed at the Junior Technical School premises.

As a result of notices received under the above Act, several vermin-infested houses were sprayed with an insecticide by an officer of the Health Department.

Footwear :—87·7% of the children inspected at the routine examinations wore satisfactory boots or shoes and 4·6% wore clogs. The footwear of 6·1% was in need of repair, and 1·5% of the children were barefooted. More children wore clogs this year than last, and only half last year's percentage were barefooted. During the year, the School Canteen Committee distributed 1,072 pairs of clogs mainly through Clog Clubs which have been formed at many of the schools. By means of the Clubs, children are enabled to purchase clogs at 2s. per pair, which is below cost price. The children readily subscribe for the clogs, every facility being given to receive odd pence brought at any time. The above distribution represents a considerable increase in the number of children provided with footwear, and as shown by the figures there are now considerably fewer children unshod than in previous years.

Clothing:—At the routine inspections 95·8% of the children were adequately clad. In 3·9% the clothing was said to be “fair,” and in only 6 cases, or 0·2% was the clothing insufficient.

Skin Diseases:—150 cases of skin diseases, excluding ringworm, were noted at the routine examinations: these include 120 of impetigo, 9 urticaria, 7 seborrhoea, 6 eczema, 5 alopecia, 1 psoriasis and 1 scabies. Among those specially examined there were 182 cases of impetigo, 19 of scabies, 8 of alopecia, 7 of psoriasis, 9 of herpes, and 1 of urticaria; 8 were suffering from boils and 16 from septic sores.

Ringworm:—4 cases of ringworm of the scalp, and 4 of the body, were seen at the routine inspections, and 72 namely, 37 of the body, and 35 of the scalp, at special examinations. All the children were excluded from school, and in the case of scalp disease, often a very prolonged absence was necessary. Twelve scalp and 2 body cases were still excluded from school at the end of the year; these compare with 31 scalp cases and one of the body left over from 1914. Twenty-nine specimens of hairs were examined microscopically; in 9 the disease was still present. There is still no provision for the X-ray treatment of ringworm.

External Eye Diseases:—The number of children found to be suffering from external eye diseases at the routine examinations was 106; there were 191 amongst the special cases. The routine cases included 67 of blepharitis, 19 of conjunctivitis and 5 of corneal opacities. One hundred and twenty-five cases of conjunctivitis were seen as special cases.

The number of children seen at the Ophthalmic Clinic in the course of the year was 946 (including 244 under treatment at the end of 1914).

Of the 702 new cases, 359 were referred there from the routine inspections; the total number of visits to the Clinic was 2,557.

The following table gives the number of cases of eye disease amongst these 946 children.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

Eye Disease						Discharged after	Under
						appropriate treatment	Treatment.
						Dec. 31st, 1915.	
Blepharitis	..	..	..	..	..	12	15
Chronic Conjunctivitis			..	..	..	10	4
Follicular	„		..	..	..	3	1
Catarrhal	„		..	..	..	20	6
Phlyctenular	„		..	..	..	17	2
Nebulae	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
Interstitial Keratitis	..		..	..	..	2	—
Marginal	„	..	..	..	..	6	7
Corneal Ulceration	..		..	..	..	5	9
Iritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Various	..	..	..	..	..	12	4
						91	51

Vision.:—The percentage of leaving boys whose vision was normal was 53·5 ; the percentage of girls 55·5 ; 19% of the leaving boys and 15·5% of the leaving girls had defective vision of such a degree that further examination and, if necessary, the use of suitable spectacles were recommended.

In 37 special cases the vision was so defective that spectacles were necessary.

One hundred and forty-one of the routine cases were wearing spectacles at the time of examination.

The following table gives the nature of the defects found in the children who attended the Ophthalmic Clinic :—

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

Discharged after Under
appropriate treatment, treatment,
Dec. 31st, 1915.

Eye Disease (see page 17) ..	..	..	91	..	51
Emmetropia (Normal Vision) ..	..	..	32	..	—
Simple Hypermetropia (Long Sight) ..	..	..	164	..	33
„ Hypermetropic Astigmatism ..	..	..	134	..	26
Compound „ „ ..	..	..	141	..	31
Mixed Astigmatism ..	..	..	54	..	11
Myopia (Short Sight) ..	..	..	65	..	5
Advanced Myopia ..	..	..	8	..	—
Simple Myopic Astigmatism ..	..	..	5	..	1
Compound „ „ ..	..	..	32	..	—
Odd Eyes ..	..	..	1	..	—
Awaiting further examination ..	..	..	—	..	14
Totals ..	..	..	727	..	172

Squint and Muscular Defects:—177 cases of squint were reported at routine examinations or 5·9% of those inspected. There were 28 amongst the special cases.

Two hundred and seventy-three cases of internal and 2 of external squint were treated at the ophthalmic clinic and are included in the table on this page; in 229 of these glasses have been obtained.

Seriously Defective Vision:—In 244 of the children who attended the clinic, the error of refraction was over 5 dioptries (a very serious amount). In 210 of these the appropriate glasses had been obtained before the end of the year. In many of these cases, normal vision cannot be attained even when spectacles are worn.

Two children referred from the clinic were operated upon at the Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary ; one for zonular cataract, and the other for squint.

During the year 4 children suffering from external eye disease and 35 from errors of refraction discontinued attendance at the clinic before treatment was completed, because they had reached the age of 14 years or their parents had left the district.

The parents of 6 children for whom glasses were prescribed refused to obtain them ; in no case was the degree of defect such that a prosecution under the Children Act was likely to be successful.

The parents of 5 children with defective vision have refused during the year to allow their children to have glasses prescribed or to have any further examination. The vision in these cases is one-third to one-fourth the normal : all are girls who will probably become domestic servants or do house work at home when they leave school. In these cases also, it was deemed inadvisable to take any action against the parents other than the use of every means to persuade them to do what is necessary for the welfare of their children.

Spectacles :—A spectacle maker attends the clinic and the children are measured for spectacles as soon as the prescription is given. In cases where it is ascertained that the parents cannot afford to buy a pair the Authority pays for them. During the calendar year, 239 pairs of new spectacles were provided and one pair was repaired. The cost was £46 10s. 9d., of which £2 7s. was recovered from the parents ; 191 pairs @ 4s. 6d. were bought ; 8 @ 2s. ; 1 @ 1s. 9d. ; and 34 @ 1s. 6d. The account for five pairs has not yet been received. The repair cost 2s. 6d.

TEETH.

The following table shows that the condition of the teeth continues to be unsatisfactory.

Boys.					GIRLS.			
Age.	Number Inspected.	Number with unsound teeth.		Percent ages with unsound teeth.	Number Inspected.	Number with unsound teeth.		Percent-ages with unsound teeth.
		Four or more.	Less than four.			Four or more.	Less than four.	
5	490	220	178	81·2	487	213	191	82·9
6	221	92	94	84·1	238	108	101	87·8
7	44	15	20	79·5	50	24	20	88·0
8	21	11	9	95·2	17	10	3	76·5
12	597	180	336	86·3	476	126	238	87·0
13	178	55	93	84·3	117	43	64	91·4
14	12	6	5	91·7	7	3	3	85·7
Total of all routine inspections..					1563	579	735	
Percent-ages						37·0	47·0	84·0
					1392	527	670	
						37·9	48·1	86·0

I am glad to be able to report that a beginning has been made in an endeavour to improve the condition of the children's teeth. Mr. Charles E. McNabb, L.D.S., has been appointed Dental Surgeon to the Authority and he devotes one half-day each week to its work. It was intended to find accommodation for the clinic in the Junior Technical School premises, but owing to the War, these are not available and the work is carried on temporarily in the basement of the Town Hall. It is expected that about 600 children can be inspected and treated in the course of a year, and it has in consequence been necessary to limit the work to that age group in which most good can be done, viz., those six to seven years old, as at this age the permanent teeth are beginning to appear. The children will be re-inspected at, if possible, yearly intervals, and it should be possible to arrest decay and secure for them healthy mouths. There are in the schools over 1,200 children at each year of age, and it will therefore only be possible to deal with children in certain schools. The procedure is for the dentist to visit a school, and in a single school session he can examine some 50 children, all aged six or seven years. Of 202 children

examined since the work commenced early in October, only 3 or 1·5% had all their teeth sound. This percentage is much less than at the routine inspections, because the dentist (with his probe and mirror) can detect early decay in teeth which would be passed as sound by the medical inspector. The dentist explains to the assembled parents the importance of care of the teeth and the school nurse makes appointments for those whose parents are willing to allow their children to attend the clinic. Appointments were made for 111 cases and of these 71 were kept. It may be added that when there was only slight decay in one or two temporary teeth, treatment was not usually recommended. One half-day's inspection provided sufficient material for three or four half-days' treatment. The clinic was held on a Thursday afternoon, but as so many children stayed at home on the day following the visit to the dentist, the day has, at the request of the School Attendance Sub-Committee, been altered to Friday.

The following show in a tabular form the work done :—

DENTAL CLINIC.—THREE MONTHS' WORK.

INSPECTION.

	Number examined	Temporary Teeth			Permanent Teeth		
		Sound	Savable	Unsavable	Sound	Savable	Unsavable
Boys ..	106 ..	1,010 ..	429 ..	403 ..	235 ..	62 ..	—
Girls ..	96 ..	858 ..	421 ..	448 ..	286 ..	63 ..	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	202 ..	1,868 ..	850 ..	851 ..	521 ..	125 ..	—

Temporary Teeth.

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage
All sound	2	1·9 ..	1	1·0 ..	3	1·5
1 to 4 decayed ..	19	17·9 ..	10	10·4 ..	29	14·4
5 to 8 „ ..	40	37·7 ..	40	41·7 ..	80	39·6
More than 8 „ ..	45	42·5 ..	45	46·9 ..	90	44·5

Permanent Teeth.

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
No permanent Teeth	36	34·0	.. 33	23·9	.. 59	29·2
All sound	34	32·1	.. 46	47·9	.. 80	39·6
1 decayed	17	16·0	.. 11	11·6	.. 28	13·9
2 „	6	5·7	.. 7	7·3	.. 13	6·4
More than 2 decayed	13	12·2	.. 9	9·3	.. 22	10·9

TREATMENT.

EXTRACTIONS.

	No. examined.	No. of appointments made.	No. treated.	Attendances	Failed to attend	Simple		Under Local Anaesthetics		Under Gas		Totals	Fillings	
						Temporary teeth	Permanent teeth	Temporary teeth	Permanent teeth	Temporary teeth	Permanent teeth		Temporary teeth	Permanent teeth
Boys	106	59	38	46	21	96	—	8	—	18	—	122	—	10
Girls	96	52	33	40	19	74	—	6	—	17	—	97	—	9
Totals	202	111	71	86	40	170	—	14	—	35	—	219	—	19

Nose :—15 defects were reported at routine examinations. Twelve were cases of nasal discharge.

Adenoids, Mouth-Breathers, Enlarged Tonsils :—At the routine inspections 9% had symptoms of adenoids and in 2·8% these were well-marked; 13·6% were mouth-breathers. 23·7% had enlarged tonsils. In 7·6% of the total examined, the enlargement was more than trifling.

The following table gives particulars of these cases :—

Age	Number examined	Adenoids.			% with Adenoids	Mouth Breathers	Percentage.	Tonsils.			% with Enlarged Tonsils.
		Small amount	Definite	Marked Operation required				Slightly Enlarged,	Much Enlarged,	Very much Enlarged	
5	977	80	33	1	11·7	138	14·1	133	44	14	19·5
6	459	37	15	—	11·3	69	15·0	55	16	6	16·8
7	94	8	3	1	12·8	13	13·8	10	4	2	17·0
8	38	—	—	—	—	1	2·6	1	2	1	10·5
12	1073	50	10	12	6·7	145	13·5	215	88	18	29·9
13	295	9	5	3	5·8	36	12·2	60	25	3	29·8
14	19	—	—	—	—	1	5·3	2	1	—	15·8
Totals	2955	184	66	17	—	403	—	476	180	44	—
Percentages	—	6·2	2·2	0·6	9·0	—	13·6	16·1	6·1	1·5	23·7

In addition to the above, 55 cases of enlarged tonsils, 16 of acute tonsillitis, 78 of adenoids, and 66 mouth-breathers were seen at the special examinations.

Most of the 9% suffering from adenoids are also included in the 13·6% who are mouth-breathers.

Another important step taken in the course of the year was the making of arrangements by which children suffering from adenoids and enlarged tonsils could be operated upon. This step was necessary owing to the great difficulty experienced by parents in having these conditions attended to at the local hospitals, and as the great majority could not afford to have the operation performed privately, the result was that practically nothing had been done to relieve the serious symptoms caused by the presence of these growths. Dr. J. E. McDougall, Throat Surgeon to the Stanley Hospital, has been appointed Throat Specialist to the Authority and he operates upon cases selected by the Authority on one morning each month. Dr. McDougall is paid directly by the Authority and the use of an operating theatre and subsidiary rooms in the out-patient department of the Stanley Hospital has been obtained by arrangement with the Committee of that Hospital. The Bootle school children attend at a time when no other throat patients are there. The arrangement with the Hospital Committee was made to suit the convenience of the Authority whose premises at the Junior Technical School which had been selected for the Throat Clinic, were taken over by the Military. An anaesthetist is provided by the Authority and a school nurse attends. Two of the Stanley Hospital nurses are also present at the operations. The arrangement is that about a dozen cases shall be operated upon each month. Some sixteen or seventeen cases are examined by me or the Medical Inspector the day before the operation and the most suitable are instructed to present themselves at the Hospital the following morning. A leaflet giving instructions as to how the children should be prepared for the operation and the importance of after-care is given to the parent of each child. The parents are visited by a school nurse 14 days after the operation to see that the recommended breathing exercises are being properly carried out. There have been 4 operating days and 42 children have had the growths removed ; in 28 cases adenoids and enlarged tonsils were

both present, in 11 adenoids only, and in 3 enlarged tonsils only. In 6 instances the children failed to keep the appointment made for them.

Ear Disease and Hearing :—At the routine inspections 14 boys and 7 girls were found to have a discharge from each ear ; 16 boys and 12 girls suffered from unilateral ear discharge. Amongst the special cases were 30 of discharge from each ear and 20 of unilateral discharge. In most of the cases adenoids were present. Throughout the year, the forced whisper test was used as a test of hearing. In 95·5% of the boys and 95·6% of the girls the hearing was normal and the whisper could be heard at a distance of 20 feet with each ear. Over 25 children could not hear in one or both ears at a greater distance than 5 feet.

Mental Condition :—Of the 1,387 leavers examined at routine inspections, the mental condition of 130 or 9·37% was adversely reported upon. Amongst the 1,568 entrants, 35 dull and 4 feeble-minded cases were reported.

Amongst the special cases examined for the first time as such during 1915, 4 were regarded as dull or backward, and 22 as mentally defective.

Twenty-three children were specially examined with a view to their notification to the Local Control Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. One child was merely backward and was recommended for an ordinary school ; 10 were feeble-minded and recommended for education in a special school (9 in a day and one in a residential) ; 8 imbeciles and 4 idiots were notified to the Local Control Authority. Only one of these has been sent to an institution. Five of the children suffered from epilepsy.

Heart and Circulation :—At the routine inspections 27 cases (or 0·91%) of organic heart disease were noted. Amongst the special cases were 15 of organic heart disease.

One hundred and sixty six cases of anæmia, or 5·62% were noted at the routine examinations. This defect was also found in 17 special cases.

Lungs :—432 (or 14·62%) of the children inspected at routine examinations were found to be suffering from bronchial catarrh or bronchitis. Three hundred and eighty of these (or 24·23% of the 1,568 examined) occurred in entrants. Mention is made of Phthisis under the heading "Tuberculosis."

Nervous Diseases :—61 defects were discovered at routine inspections, including 40 noted as “nervous” or “nervous tendency,” 3 cases of epilepsy, 3 of chorea, and 1 of infantile paralysis. At the special examinations 23 cases were seen, including 7 of epilepsy, 12 of chorea, and 1 of infantile paralysis.

Tuberculosis, Pulmonary :—At the routine examinations, 8 children were found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis, while 23 were provisionally classed as “doubtful.”

Of the special cases, 3 were found to be suffering from what was regarded as active tuberculosis of the lungs; there were 21 cases of doubtful tuberculosis.

Osseous :—At the routine inspections, 5 cases of osseous tuberculosis, viz., 3 of the hip joint and 2 of the knee, were found. Amongst the special cases were 4 of osseous tuberculosis; in 1 the hip joint was involved; in 2 the spine and in 1 the ankle.

Glandular :—1 case of tuberculosis of the glands of the neck was found at the routine inspections. There were 11 cases of glandular tuberculosis amongst the special cases: the glands of the neck were affected in each case.

Other Forms :—1 special case was suffering from lupus.

In the course of the year 157 cases of tuberculosis in children of school age came under observation at the Tuberculosis Dispensary. This is 1·06% of the children of school age in the town. Ninety-five of the cases, or 0·64% of the school population, were of pulmonary disease, and 62, or 0·42%, of non-pulmonary.

The age and sex distribution of the cases is shown in the next table :

Age in Years.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			
5, 6, 7 ..	12	9	..	4 12	..		37
8, 9, 10 ..	12	22	..	14 7	..		55
11 and over	20	20	..	11 14	..		65
	—	—		— —			—
Totals ..	44	51		29 33			157
	95			62			

Table showing the location of the disease in the non-pulmonary cases :—

							Males	Females
Glands of neck .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	13
Bronchial Glands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
Mesenteric Glands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Mediastinal Glands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Spine .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	5
Hip joint .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8
Knee .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Ankle .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Peritoneum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Epididymis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Meninges .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Skin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Totals							29	33
							62	

During the year, 8 deaths from pulmonary, and 2 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred amongst the cases tabulated above.

Twenty-eight of the pulmonary cases were treated in institutions during some part of the year, 59 received dispensary treatment only, and 8 treatment from private practitioners. The non-fatal pulmonary cases comprise 39 of early disease, 35 intermediate or chronic, and 13 advanced.

Of the 62 non-pulmonary cases, 14 received institutional treatment during the year, 41 dispensary only, and 7 were treated by private practitioners.

In addition to the above-mentioned, definite and notified cases of tuberculosis there are 39 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary cases of suspected tuberculosis which are under observation by the Tuberculosis Officer.

Forty-five definite cases of pulmonary disease, and 19 of non-pulmonary, together with 32 of the suspected pulmonary and all 5 of the suspected non-pulmonary cases were in attendance at an ordinary school in December 1915.

Rickets and Deformities :—At the routine inspections, 51 children (or 1·7%) were found to be suffering from the results of rickets, 33 were slight and 18 were marked cases. Twenty-nine of the children were boys and 22 girls.

There were 40 children suffering from deformities : in 14 the deformity was due to rickets, 9 were congenital in origin, and 11 the result of infantile paralysis.

Amongst the special cases were 5 due to infantile paralysis and 2 to rickets.

Other Defects or Diseases :—At the routine inspections, 46 children suffering from “ other ” defects were reported. Under this heading are included hernia, enuresis, tumours, abscesses, worms, goitre, etc. At the special examinations, there were 59 cases of other diseases, including 3 of mumps, 3 chickenpox, 4 influenza, 1 whooping cough, 2 goitre, 2 enuresis and 1 hernia.

Deaths :—The deaths of 45 children of school age occurred during the year : 8 were the result of phthisis ; 1 tuberculous meningitis, 1 tuberculosis of the intestines, 4 pneumonia, 2 organic heart disease, 2 scarlet fever, 2 whooping cough, 1 diphtheria, 1 cerebro-spinal meningitis, 3 nephritis, 6 accidents, 2 rheumatic fever, and 2 appendicitis.

REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The methods detailed in previous reports are still in use.

Scarlet Fever :—The number of cases notified amongst children of school age was 161. There was no excessive prevalence in any of the schools : those with the largest numbers of cases were Christ Church, Linacre, Gray Street, and Balliol.

Diphtheria :—During the year 43 cases of diphtheria occurred in children of school age. In one school there was some evidence of school infection as the cases mostly occurred in the members of 2 classes ; by the precautions taken, the total number of cases in that school was limited to eight.

Measles :—During the year, only 147 cases of measles occurring in school children were brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer, compared with 427 in 1914.

It was necessary to close one Infants' Department, viz., that of the Balliol Council School, which was closed at noon March 3rd, when 40 children were absent because of measles, and 4 because of whooping cough: the attendance was 60% of those on the school roll. The Department was re-opened on the morning of March 22nd.

Whooping Cough:—During 1915, 272 cases in school children were reported, and these together with 90 contacts were excluded. In 1914, there were 75 cases and 27 contacts.

Mumps:—During the year, 35 cases of mumps were reported, compared with 298 in 1914.

Chickenpox:—There occurred amongst school children 89 cases of chickenpox, and these together with 19 contacts, were excluded.

The following table gives the schools from which cases, and contacts of cases, of measles and other infectious diseases, were notified.

	Measles			Chickenpox			Whooping Cough			Mumps
	Cases	Con- tacts	Total	Cases	Con- tacts	Total	Cases	Con- tacts	Total	
Salisbury Road	2	7	9	4	—	4	45	5	50	7
Hawthorne Road	14	1	15	5	2	7	3	5	8	9
Linaere Lane	6	1	7	7	—	7	47	24	71	—
Bedford Road	31	8	39	2	—	2	3	5	8	—
Gray Street	2	2	4	5	4	9	—	4	4	1
St. James	14	4	18	15	4	19	51	20	71	—
St. Mary's	10	7	17	2	1	3	21	8	29	1
Christ Church	5	2	7	1	—	1	14	—	14	3
St. John's	1	4	5	4	—	4	19	3	22	—
St. Alexander's	5	4	9	5	4	9	10	2	12	2
St. Winefride's	13	4	17	2	—	2	16	5	21	1
St. James' Select	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	—
Orrell	2	3	5	31	4	35	36	8	44	11
Balliol	42	3	45	5	—	5	6	—	6	—
Totals	147	51	198	89	19	108	272	90	362	35
No. of visits & re-visits	224			128			396			42

The total number of visits paid to all cases of minor infectious diseases, was 790.

FOLLOWING-UP.

Re-examinations took place in 30 school departments ; the number re-examined in school and at the Town Hall was 2,754.

Work of School Nurses :—During the year, 5,042 visits were paid by the two nurses to the homes of children whose names appear on the Following-Up Register, and 296 visits were made by voluntary workers. Not so many visits will be possible in future, as it has been found necessary to send a nurse to the schools before the routine inspections for the purpose of weighing and measuring the children and testing their vision. A considerable amount of time was also taken up by the routine examination for dirty conditions in the Girls' and Infants' Departments. The Minor Ailments Clinic is attended in increasing numbers, and though Nurse Hughes commences work there at 8.30 a.m., it is seldom that she can leave before 9.45 a.m. Attendance at the Ophthalmic, Dental, Throat, and Inspection Clinics takes a considerable proportion of the nurses' time.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children :—Several cases were referred to the Society's District Inspector, and in every case he rendered valuable help.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1915.

Defect	No. of defects for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentages of defects.		
	Previous Years.	New.	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		Treated.	Not treated.	No Report
Clothing	—	41	41	—	41	10	31	—	—	100·0	—	—
Footwear	—	46	46	—	46	18	28	—	—	100·0	—	—
Cleanliness of Head	175	132	307	4	303	57	215	31	—	98·7	—	1·3
Cleanliness of Body	13	50	63	1	62	6	56	—	—	98·4	—	1·6
Nutrition	159	571	730	6	724	31	659	34	—	99·2	—	0·8
Nose and Throat	583	450	1033	39	796	196	387	213	198	77·0	19·2	3·8
External Eye Disease ...	99	114	213	3	210	102	75	33	—	98·6	—	1·4
Ear Disease	84	87	171	5	166	63	50	53	—	97·0	—	3·0
Teeth	5	161	166	3	147	74	3	70	16	88·5	9·6	1·9
Heart and Circulation ...	64	96	260	15	245	37	144	64	—	94·2	—	5·8
Lungs	172	242	414	10	398	78	236	84	—	96·1	—	3·9
Nervous System	124	32	56	3	53	1	34	18	—	94·6	—	5·4
Skin.....	73	304	377	7	370	317	45	8	—	98·2	—	1·8
Rickets	27	3	30	1	29	4	14	11	—	96·7	—	3·3
Deformities.....	23	—	23	—	23	6	7	10	—	100·0	—	—
Tuberculosis—												
non-pulmonary	35	3	38	1	37	2	27	8	—	97·4	—	2·6
Speech.....	15	45	60	2	58	1	15	42	—	96·7	—	3·3
Mental Condition	47	6	53	2	51	6	17	28	—	96·2	—	3·8
Vision and Squint.....	342	443	785	23	753	638	*104	†11	9	95·8	1·2	3·0
Hearing	88	64	152	—	152	43	82	27	—	100·0	—	—
Miscellaneous	62	89	151	3	148	35	59	54	—	98·0	—	2·0
Totals	2190	2979	5169	134	4812	1725	2288	799	223			
Percentages	[2·7 | 93·1 | 33·4 | 44·2 | 15·4 | 4·3 | 93·1 | 4·3 | 2·6											

*Attending Clinic, Hospital or Private Practitioner.

†Refused treatment.

The total number of defects for which treatment was required was 5,169, compared with 4,145 in 1914, 4,038 in 1913, and 3,254 in 1912. The percentage cured or remedied was 33·4, compared with 38·9 in 1914, 32·7 in 1913 and 29·8 in 1912, while the percentage of the total who had secured some treatment was 93·1, compared with 83·3, 85·8 and 83·7 respectively. The decrease in the percentage cured is more than counterbalanced by an increase in the percentage improved which is 44·2 compared with 26·8, and is due to a tendency to retain on the register the names of children who though apparently cured, are liable to relapse or who should be seen

again for any purpose. The 223 untreated contain 27 who have left school ; 171 of the remainder were cases of adenoid growths or enlarged tonsils, for certain of which an operation is required. It should be noted that the number awaiting treatment for defective vision is only 9 compared with 134 at the beginning of 1915.

The 134 defects under the heading " no report " occurred in children who were absent at the time of re-examination and the school nurse could not get into touch with them because of their change of address or other reason ; 44 of them have now left school. The figures in the table, unlike those of last year, include children who have left school during the year ; in that period 261 cards relating to defects in children who have left school were removed. One hundred and ninety defects had been treated ; 52 were cured or remedied, 84 improved, and 54 unchanged.

The table does not contain particulars of 1,087 defects in children examined in the last few months of the year and who were not re-examined until 1916.

Eighty-three children who live in Bootle and attend a Liverpool School were referred by the School Medical Officer of Liverpool and followed up by your School Nurses.

Minor Ailments:—The Clinic for the treatment of these ailments has been open since the 31st August, 1914, and to the 31st December, 1914, 76 children made 782 attendances.

The table gives particulars of the cases dealt with during 1915.

Defect.	Number of children		Number of attendances		Cured.	Improved and still attending	
Ringworm of body	33	..	312	..	33	..	—
Ringworm of scalp	32	..	705	..	25	..	7
Herpes	3	..	16	..	3	..	—
Impetigo Capitis ..	16	..	157	..	16	..	—
Impetigo of Face ..	82	..	483	..	80	..	2
Eczema	39	..	331	..	39	..	—
Scabies	4	..	70	..	2	..	2
Abscess	9	..	53	..	9	..	—
Boils	3	..	21	..	3	..	—
Septic toe or finger	9	..	110	..	7	..	2
Otorrhoea	46	..	737	..	36	..	10
Wax in ears ..	6	..	23	..	6	..	—
Conjunctivitis ..	54	..	340	..	45	..	9
Blepharitis	6	..	48	..	5	..	1
Iritis	2	..	19	..	1	..	1
Various	6	..	45	..	5	..	1
Totals	350	..	3,470	..	315	..	35

Education of Special Cases.—The following table gives the information required by the Board of Education :

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all exceptional children in the Area.

			Boys	Girls	Totals
	BLIND.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	6	5	11
	(including part-	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	7	3	10
	ially blind)	Not at School .. .. .	..	3	3
	DEAF AND DUMB,	Attending Public Elementary Schools	..	2	2
	(including part-	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	5	2	7
	ially deaf)	Not at School .. .. .	..	..	..
Mentally Deficient	Feeble-Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	11	9	20
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children .. .. .	..	..	..
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year .. .. .	..	..	..
		Not at School	3	9	12
	Imbeciles	At School	1	..	1
		Not at School	5	2	7
	Idiots	—	2	2	4
	Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	7	12
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	..	..	..
		Not at School	2	5	7
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	25	20	45
		Attending Certified School for Physically Defective Children .. .. .	..	..	..
		Not at School	12	29	41
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	13	6	19
		Attending Certified School for Physically Defective Children	1	2	3
		Not at School	14	24	38
	Cripples other than Tubercular	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		Attending Certified School for Physically Defective Children .. .. .	..	..	..
		Not at School	3	2	5

Blind or Partially Blind Children:—The 11 partially blind children, who attend an ordinary school, are suffering from progressive myopia, and their sight will become much worse and may fail altogether unless they are educated suitably. Eight blind children are at Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool, 1 at Brunswick Road School for the Blind, Liverpool, and another at the School for the Blind, Fulwood, Preston. With regard to the three children not at school, arrangements have been made for one to be admitted to a blind school in August, another is too ill to be admitted to a school at present, and the third is now being recommended for admission to a school.

Deaf and Dumb Children:—4 children are at Oxford Street Deaf and Dumb School, Liverpool, and 3 are at St. John's Deaf and Dumb School, Boston Spa.

Mentally Defective Children:—The 12 feeble-minded children not on a school roll have been excluded permanently. The imbecile who is "at school" is high grade and has been sent by the Lancashire Asylums Board, the Local (Control) Authority, to a residential institution where he is being suitably taught.

Epileptics:—The 7 children who are not at school include 3 idiots and 2 imbeciles.

Physically Defective:—The 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis who attend a certified school have been sent by the Local Sanitary Authority to the Leasowe Sanatorium for Children. Two are cases of tuberculous hip and one of tuberculous spine.

Feeding of School Children:—A report by the Secretaries of the School Canteen Committee on the work performed during the winter session 1914-1915, has been sent to the Board of Education and circulated amongst the Committee.

Considerable attention has been devoted during the year to this subject and though the provision of a large number of meals was fortunately found unnecessary, efforts have been made to improve the dietary and more particularly the manner in which the meals are served. The experiment of providing porridge twice a week at one school proved so successful that at the commencement of the winter session 1915-1916, porridge was

provided for three additional schools and on the whole it is well liked. I have visited each centre and wish to draw attention to the arrangements at Gray Street School : here, the meal is set out by the caretaker with the assistance of two girls from the special (mainly housewifery) class a few minutes before 8.30 a.m. At 8.30, a teacher arrives, the children are admitted and take their seats in an orderly manner ; grace is said and the children begin altogether. The children remain until the meal is finished ; no child being allowed to take a piece of bread to be eaten in the playground, as is done in some of the other schools.

I see no real reason why arrangements similar to these cannot be made in other schools, for though the room available may not be so good as in Gray Street, it is in the supervision and the effort to make the meal an education in how meals should be taken that lie the differences between this school and others.

